

Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0122

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PP

SUBJECT: FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF CREATION OF CPC

QTE NATIONAL PRESSURE GROUP UNQTE IN
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

1. DURING SEPTEMBER 27 MORNING SESSION HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FATHER MOMIS, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF FORMER CPC ANNOUNCED
CREATION OF NATIONAL PRESSURE GROUP CONSISTING OF EIGHTEEN
MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE. GROUP MEMBERS NOT TO RESIGN FROM
CURRENT PARTY MEMBERSHIP, BUT RESERVE RIGHT TO VOTE AGAINST
PARENT PARTIES ON ISSUES OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE. TEN OF
GROUP ARE FORMER CONSTITUTIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

2. NINE MEMBERS DRAWN FROM GOVERNMENT COALITION ARE AS
FOLLOWS:

MATAUNGAN ASSOCIATION

JOHN KAPTUIN (CPC MEMBER)
OSCAR TAMMUR
DAMIEN KEERKU

PANGU PATI

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FR. JOHN MOMIS (CPC MEMBER)

PIKAH KASAU (CPCMEMBER)

PEOPLES PROGRESS PARTY

STANIS TOLIMAN (CPC MEMBER)

RAPHAEL BELE (CPCMEMBER)

NEW GUINEA NATIONAL PARTY

KOBALE KALE

JOHN KAUPA

3. NINE MEMBERS DRAWN FROM NON-COALITION PARTIES AS
FOLLOWS:

COUNTRY PARTY

SINAKE GIREGIRE (CPC MEMBER)

MICHAEL PONDROS POKAYOU

JOHN POKIA

BEWA TOU

UNITED PARTY

PAUL LANGRO, DEPUTY OPPOSITION LEADER (CPCMEMBER)

BRERE AWOL

MATIABE YUWI (CPC MEMBER)

MACKENZIE DAUGI (CPC MEMBER)

ANGMAI BILAS (CPC MEMBER)

4. THE LOCAL PRESS HERE HEADLINES EVENT QTE GOVERNMENT
ROCKED, BUT SURE OF SURVIVAL UNQTE STATING THAT OVER THE
WEEKEND THE AUSTRALIAN PRESS HAD QUOTED CHIEF MINISTER
SOMARE AS SAYING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT MIGHT HAVE TO RESIGN.
PRESS HERE INDICATES THAT WHILE ON THE SURFACE THE COMBINED
STRENGTH OF THE OPPOSITION AND THE NEW CPC GROUP COULD
OUTVOTE THE GOVERNMENT 53 TO 47 THE TYPE OF QTE RADICAL UNQTE
ISSUE UPON WHICH THE GROUP WOULD OPPOSE THE GOVERNMENT WOULD
BE UNLIKELY TO GAIN ANY SUPPORT FROM THE OPPOSITION AND THAT
CONSEQUENTLY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE SAFE FROM DEFEAT. ONE
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EXCEPTION CITED IN PRESS IS POSSIBILITY THAT OPPOSITION AND
CPC FACTION COULD JOIN TO FORCE A NEW SELECTION OF MINISTERS
BY THE HOUSE AFTER THE CONSTITUTION IS ACCEPTED. THE
GOVERNMENT HOPES TO RETAIN THE PRESENT MINISTRY UNTIL THE
1976 ELECTIONS. ISSUES WILL BE DETERMINED BY AN ARTICLE
WITHIN THE NEW CONSTITUTION, HOWEVER, SO IT WILL BE SETTLED
WELL IN ADVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE.

5. FATHER MOMIS IS QUOTED AS STATING THAT THE GROUP WILL TRY TO GET A NEW DEAL FOR THE PEOPLE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THAT REASON FOR GROUP S FORMATION WASGOVERNMENT S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CPC REPORT, AND GROUP S HOPES TO PREVENT COUNTRY FROM BEING QTE SOLD OUT UNQTE TO FOREIGN INTERESTS.

6. COMMENT WILL FOLLOW SEPTTEL.

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